

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----260618Z 124076 /13

O 260415Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9297

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BRASILIA 10514

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM CRIMMINS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PINT EC CI PE BL BR

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF INCREASING PREOCCUPATION ABOUT PERU'S INTENTIONS  
REGARDING CHILE AND ECUDADOR

REF: STATE 310852

1. DURING A SOCIAL OCCASION TODAY (DECEMBER 25), I HAD AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA IN SOME DETAIL  
THE QUESTIONS RASIED IN REFTEL AND ON GENERAL TERMS THE INFORMATION  
CONTAINED IN THE SERIES OF RELEVANT TELEGRAMS FROM EMBASSIES LIMA  
AND QUITO.

2. SILVEIRA SEEMED GENERALLY AWARE OF ECUADOREAN AND  
CHILEAN CONCERNS BUT WAS NOT ALARMED ABOUT THE SITUATION.  
BASING HIMSELF ON THE NOVEMBER MEETING BETWEEN GEISEL  
AND MORALES BERMUDEZ AND ON CURRENT INFORMATION FROM LIMA,  
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HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT PERU INTENDS TO  
ATTACK CHILE OR ECUADOR. HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE REPORTS  
CURRENT IN QUITO ABOUT PERUVIAN TROOP MEOVEMENT TO THE  
VICINITY OF THE BORDER WITH EDCUADOR--HE SAID THAT ALL THE  
PARTIES WERE APPROACHING BRAZIL CONSTATLY--BUT  
COMMENTED THAT, IF ONE WERE TO PUT CREDENCE IN THE

CHILEAN AND ECUADOREAN ALLEGATIONS OF PERUVIAN UNIT DISPOSITION, THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES WOULD HAVE TO BE ENOROUS. (I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD NOT CONFIRMED THE ECUADOREAN CLAIMS, BUT WERE TRYING TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS.)

3. SILVEIRA, WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY RELAXED ABOUT THE SITUATION EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE ECUADOREAN JITTERS WERE AN OFFSHOOT OF THE BOLIVIAN CORREDOR QUESTION. HE WENT TO SAY THAT THE GOB CONTINUED TO URGE CALMNESS PATIENCE AND DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS ON PERU, CHILE, AND BOLIVIA. HE OBSERVED, PARENTHETICALLY, THAT CHILE HAD GIVEN ITS FIRM NEGATIVE TO THE PERUVIAN PROPOSEAL TOO QUICKLY AND THAT THE GOC COULD HAVE DELAYED ITS REPLY SO AS TO STRETCH OUT THE PROCESS. IN THIS SENSE, HE CITED, WITH APPROVAL, THE CONTRASTING ACTION OF THE GOP WHICH HAD TAKEN A GREAT DEAL OF TIME TO RESPOND TO CHILE.

4. SILVEIRA SAID THAT HE EXPECTED BOLIVIA TO ANNOUNCE "WITHIN THE NEXT DAYS," A NEW PROPOSE) 2#8:#, HE STATED, WOULD SOMEWAHT CLSER TO THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL THAN THE CHILEAN. HE INTIMATED THAT THIS NEW ELEMENT WOULD KEEP THE TALKS GOING FOR SOME TIME. IN AN ASIDE SILVEIRA SAID THAT ARGENTINA WAS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT BRAZIL'S ROLE WITH BOLIVIA, RAISING ALARMS ABOUT A BRAZILIAN DESIRE FOR AN OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC. HE DISMISSED THIS AS NONSENSE, SAYING THAT BRAZIL WOULD DEPEND ON THE OPERATION OF NORMAL ECONOMIC FORCES TO ADVANCE ITS INTERESTS ON THE WEST COAST.

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5. ON ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN BY INTERESTED THIRD COUNTRIES, SILVEIRA WAS FIRM IN SAYING THAT THE BEST COURSE WAS TO CONTINUE TO URGE THE THREE DIRECTLY INVOLVED COUNTRIES TO KEEP CALM AND KEEP TALKING. HE SAW NO PRESENT VIRTUE IN NEW INITIATIVES.

6. WE AGREED THAT, ON DECEMBER 27, THE DCM AND THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT OF ITAMARATY WOULD GET TOGETHER TO GO OVER THE SITUATION IN MORE DETAIL. WE ALSO AGREED THAT WE WOULD KEEP ONE ANOTHER INFORMED OF ANY IMPORTANT DEVELOPEMENTS.

7. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH I CONSIDER THAT THE GOB'S INTERESTS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, WHILE CLEARLY PARALLEL TO OURS, ARE NOT NECESSARILY CONGRUENT WITH OURS, I CONSIDER SILVEIRA'S BASIC POSITION CONTRARY TO NEW INITIATIVES TO BE SOUND. I WANT TO RESERVE FURTHER DETAINED COMMENT

UNTIL AFTER THE MONDAY MEETING BETWEEN THE DCM AND THE  
AMERCIAS DEPARTMENT HEAD. WE WILL ALSO BE MAKING  
RECOMMENDATINS ABOUT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE  
GOB AND ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GENERAL SITUATION  
(E.G., THE NECESSITY TO BRING ARGENTINA INTO THE  
CONSULTATIONS, THE OAS ROLE) AFTER THAT MEETING.  
MEANWHILE, I HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT  
MAKE ANY PUBLIC REFERENCES TO INCREASED TENSION  
ON THE WEST COAST (LIMA 11579). I BELIEVE THAT SUCH  
PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN WOULD, IN FACT, ADD  
TO THE UNEASINESS. END COMMENT.  
CRIMMINS

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NNN

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